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ENG 3009-010: Myth and Culture

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Parabola Assignment

PLEASE NOTE: This assignment sheet covers the third paper and the oral presentation--a total of 30% of your final grade. Therefore, it is in your best interests to read this entire assignment carefully and ask me if you have *any* questions.

Due Dates:

The oral presentations will be scheduled for after break; the third paper is due April 15 for 3099 and April 22 for 3009. You *must* have decided on your topic by March 13 (and even this is pretty late).

Length Requirements:

Presentations should around 15 minutes in length. Papers should be in the neighborhood of 1500-2000 words (6-8 pages).

The Assignment:

You will each choose a different issue of *Parabola: Myth, Tradition and the Search for Meaning* to review. Each issue has a different theme and has several articles and stories in it. The library owns volumes I-XIV (there are 4 numbers in each volume), and they are shelved in the Periodical Room upstairs in Booth Library (Call # BL1.P25). See list on page three. In addition to the issues in the library, I have a few later ones in my office, which I will loan out under the same conditions (i.e. overnight), but I strongly urge you to use the library volumes when possible.

You should choose an issue on a theme that appeals to you. Be sure to choose a couple of backups in case the one you want is already taken by the time you come see me. After choosing your issue and clearing it with me, read as much of the issue as you can. You *must* read at least three articles (an interview can be substituted for one of these, and *all* the epicycles (i.e. stories or poems) in the issue. If you want help in selecting which articles to read, I have an index in my office and we can go over it together. Keep in mind that periodicals are on overnight loan, that several numbers are bound together, and that I have more than one class--you will not be the only one who needs a particular volume. You might find it wise to photocopy the sections you plan to use so that you may mark on them at will and read them when you want to.

After reading the issue, plan your paper and your presentation. Presentation times will be arranged on a first come, first-served basis, and you may not sign up for a time until you have chosen which issue you will present.

In your presentation, you will explain the importance of your theme in mythology--how it is used, what cultures find it important, similarities and differences in its interpretation or definition, etc. You may also find it useful to discuss the theme in terms of the myths we have read for class. Lastly (and most importantly), you will present a myth on your theme to the class. This will be chosen from the epicycles you have read. choose one to present and duplicate copies of it for the class. These must be distributed to your classmates the class before your presentation. This is a lot to cover, I realize, so choose the elements of your presentation wisely. You may also find rehearsal a good idea. 15 minutes *seems* like a long time now, but, believe me, it will go by quickly.

For your third paper, you will write on this same theme. You could, for example, compare its treatment in different myths you have read, analyze its role in myth in terms of its impact on a specific culture, discuss why it is an important theme in myth. I urge you to discuss this paper with me in office hours. I want each of you to do the best work possible here. This is a limited form of a research paper. Any ideas, quotations, or words you borrow from the issue of *Parabola* you are working with (or from any other source) must be completely documented in a Works Cited (MLA style) or Reference (APA Style) page and cited *in the body of your paper whenever you use it*. If you are unsure on how to document sources appropriately, ask me. Incorrect or incomplete documentation of sources will greatly affect your grade.

Evaluation:

Your presentation will be evaluated on clarity, organization, presentation style, and content. Try to keep your audience engaged--i.e. don't put us to sleep! Try to talk more than read (notes are allowed, however), and feel free to ask questions of the class. You may use any visual or audio aids you will. If you need me to bring a VCR or tape player (or anything else) to class, please give me ample warning.

When listening to the presentations of others, be a good audience member. Participate when asked and listen attentively. In 3009, part of your final will cover the presentations, so it is in your best interests to pay attention.

The paper will be evaluated on how you bring together the information you have gathered and use it to form ideas of your own as you analyze myths and their role in culture. Is the discussion interesting and insightful? Have you organized your paper logically? Does the writing flow smoothly? Have you documented your sources correctly? Can I hear your voice dominate? After reading all your sources, you should have developed some ideas of your own. Base your paper on these first and then use your sources to support your discussion. Feel free to critique the articles as well. Are some more convincing than others? More interesting? Why?

QUESTIONS????

Many issues of *Parabola: The Magazine of Myth and Meaning* are owned by our library. Each issue is centered around a different topic. The call # is BL1.P25

Issues owned by the library:

I:1	The Hero	VIII:1	Guilt
I:2	Magic	VIII:2	Animals
I:3	Initiation	VIII:3	Words of Power
I:4	Rites of Passage	VIII:4	Sun and Moon
II:1	Death	IX:1	Hierarchy
II:2	Creation	IX:2	Theft
II:3	Cosmology	IX:3	Pilgrimage
II:4	Relationships	IX:4	Food
III:1	Sacred Space	X:1	Wholeness [vol.X on microfilm]
III:2	Sacrifice and Transformation	X:2	Exile
III:3	Inner Alchemy	X:3	The Body
III:4	Androgyny	X:4	The Seven Deadly Sins
IV:1	The Trickster	XI:1	The Witness
IV:2	Sacred Dance	XI:2	Mirrors
IV:3	The Child	XI:3	Sadness
IV:4	Storytelling and Education	XI:4	Memory and Forgetting
V:1	The Old Ones	XII:1	The Knight and the Hermit
V:2	Music Sound Silence	XII:2	Addiction
V:3	Obstacles	XII:3	Forgiveness
V:4	Woman	XII:4	The Sense of Humor
VI:1	Earth and Spirit	XIII:1	The Creative Response
VI:2	The Dream of Progress	XIII:2	Repetition and Renewal
VI:3	Mask and Metaphor	XIII:3	Questions
VI:4	Demons	XIII:4	The Mountain
VII:1	Sleep	XIV:1	Disciples and Discipline
VII:2	Dreams and Seeing	XIV:2	Tradition and Transmission
VII:3	Ceremonies	XIV:3	The Tree of Life
VII:4	Holy War	XIV:4	Triad

In addition, I own copies of the following issues that I can loan out:

XV:4 Hospitality
XVI:2 The Hunter
XVII:3 The Oral Tradition
XVII:4 Power and Energy
XVIII:2 Place and Space
XX:3 Language and Meaning
XX:4 Eros
XXI:1 Prophets and Prophecy
XXI:2 The Soul
XXI:3 Peace
XXI:4 Play and Work